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Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W
---------- 020092
P R 171541Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4534
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL TANGIER

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USINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS ALSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR AG
SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN RESPONSE TO ICJ OPINION ON SPANISH SAHARA

SUMMARY: GIRM IS TRYING TO PUT BEST FACE ON ICJ OPINION IN SPITE OF FACT THAT IT IS SET BACK FOR STATED MAURITANIAN POLICY. MAURITANIA'S INITIAL REACTION TO ICJ ACTION IS MASSIVE EXPLANATORY AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. WE SEE NO LIKELIHOOD OF CRUSADING MAURITANIAN CIVILIANS CROSSING BORDER
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INTO SAHARA NOR DESPATCH OF GIRM TROOPS INTO

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DISPUTED TERRITORY. END SUMMARY

1. MAURITANIA REPLIED TO ICJ ADVISORY OPINION IN FORM OF STATEMENT IN PARTY PAPER CHAAB MORNING OF OCTOBER 17. NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU (BPN) OF MAURITAIA'S SINGLE PARTY HELD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OCTOBER 16 TO DISCUSS ICJ OPINION. BPN, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF 7 KEY MINISTERS OF STATE AND CHAIRED BY OULD DADDAH, REAFFIRMED MAURITANIAN POSITION ON SAHARA WHICH DATES BACK TO 1957 WHEN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH (IN SPEECH AT ATAR) EMPHASIZED ETHNIC, CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GEOGRAPHICAL LINKS BETWEEN SAHARA AND MAURITANIA, CONCLUDING THAT WESTERN SAHARA IS CLEARLY AN INTEGRAL PART OF MAURITANIA'S NATIONAL TERRITORY. BPN POINTED OUT THAT ICJ RECOGNIZED EXISTENCE OF LETAL LINKS BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND WESTERN SAHARA "INCLUDING SOME RIGHTS RELATING TO THE LAND". BPN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION OVER RECOGNITION BY ICJ OF EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF COLONIAL OCCUPATION OF THE SAHARA OF LEGAL LINKS BETWEEN THE WESTERN SAHARA AND THE MAURITANIAN ENTITY. BPN ADDED THAT ICJ OPINION MOREOVER CONFIRMS MAURITANIA'S LEGITIMATE POSITION ON THE SAHARA AND ITS POLICY OVER THE PAST 18 YEARS FOR RECOVERING ITS RIGHTS THROUGH THE REUNIFICATION OF ITS TERRITORY, A REUNIFICATION TO WHICH "OUR PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER DEEPLY ASPRE".

2. BPN, WHICH INVITED MAURITANIAN POPULACE TO CLOSE RANKS AND MOBILIZE FOR PERFECTING ITS INDEPENDENCE, CONCLUDED STATEMENT WITH DECISION TO HOLD MAJOR INFORMATION AND EXPLANATORY CAMPAIGN ON QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA. CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN WITH APOPULAR MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT ON OCTOBER 20 UNDER DIRECTION OF BPN. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED SOON AFTERWARDS BY SERIES OF POPULAR MEETINGS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN LOCAL PRESS IS CLEARLY GIRM INITIAL RESPONSE TO ICJ ADVISORY OPINION. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD MOROCCAN RESPONSE (RABAT 4970) WAS CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH MAURITANIAN RESPONSE DURING OCTOBER 13-14 MEETINGS IN MARRAKECH BETWEEN KING HASSAN AND PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. DELAY OF OPENING OF MAURITANIAN CAMPAIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL OCTOBER 20 IS MOST PROBABLY RESULT OF FACT THAT BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TODOR ZHIKOV WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY ON STATE VISIT IS NOT DEPARTING UNITL OCTOBER 19. WE SEE VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY THAT MAURITANIANS WILL TRY TO MARCH PEACEFUL HORDES INTO SPANISH SAHARA AS MOROCCANS PLAN TO DO. NOR DO WE SEE ANY SERIOUS POSSIBILITY OF MAURITANIAN TROOPS CROSSING INTO SAHARA. WE NOTE THAT OFFICIAL MAURITANIAN

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PRESS COVERAGE OF ICJ OPINION MADE NO REFERENCE TO IMPLICIT
SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF SAHARA.HANDYSIDE

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